Pacific Gains, Unequal Costs

Read evidence of economic growth, exclusion, and resistance.

SS24.US1.15 "Evaluate the United States' efforts to increase engagement with Asia and the Pacific Islands in the late nineteenth century. 15a Describe the economic contributions of Asian immigrants in the second half of the nineteenth century and the..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two economic contributions, circle two examples of hostility or resistance, and number two reasons the United States wanted Hawaii. Use your marks to compare who benefited with who faced costs.

Across the Pacific

1. In the decades after the Civil War, ships carried workers and goods across the Pacific. Chinese immigrants helped build the western section of the transcontinental railroad and worked in mines, farms, and businesses. Their labor connected markets and helped western towns grow. Yet many white workers blamed Chinese laborers for low wages. Mobs attacked Chinese communities, and local rules often shut Chinese people out of jobs. Economic growth brought opportunity to some, but not equal protection to all.

2. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, barring most Chinese laborers from entering the United States. The law made hostility toward Chinese immigrants a national policy. On Hawaiian sugar plantations, Chinese and Japanese immigrants planted and harvested cane under demanding conditions. Plantation owners profited from their work, while workers faced low pay and unequal treatment. The United States traded heavily with Hawaii, and American investors gained influence over its economy. Those ties shaped a debate over who should control the islands.

3. By the 1890s, U.S. leaders saw Hawaii as a place to refuel ships crossing the Pacific and to protect trade routes. Sugar growers also wanted secure access to U.S. markets. In 1893, a group of residents backed by U.S. troops overthrew Queen Liliuokalani. She protested the overthrow, and Native Hawaiians organized petitions against annexation. In 1897, thousands signed petitions opposing U.S. control. Congress annexed Hawaii in 1898 anyway, making the islands useful to U.S. expansion while denying many Hawaiians the independence they sought.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Chinese immigrants help western economies, and how did some communities treat them in return?

2. How did the Chinese Exclusion Act extend the hostility described in the passage?

3. Why did U.S. leaders and sugar growers want control of Hawaii? Give one reason for each group.

4. What did Native Hawaiians do to oppose annexation, and what happened despite their efforts?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum label claims, “Pacific expansion benefited everyone.” Write 70 to 90 words evaluating that claim. Use evidence about immigrant labor, hostility, U.S. motives in Hawaii, and Native Hawaiian resistance.

ANSWER KEY

Pacific Gains, Unequal Costs

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.15

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two economic contributions, circle two examples of hostility or resistance, and number two reasons the United States wanted Hawaii. Use your marks to compare who benefited with who faced costs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Chinese immigrants help western economies, and how did some communities treat them in return?	**They built railroads and worked in mines, farms, and businesses, helping connect markets and grow towns. They also faced mob attacks and rules that limited their jobs.**
2	How did the Chinese Exclusion Act extend the hostility described in the passage?	**It turned hostility into federal policy by barring most Chinese laborers from entering the United States.**
3	Why did U.S. leaders and sugar growers want control of Hawaii? Give one reason for each group.	**U.S. leaders wanted a place to refuel ships and protect trade routes. Sugar growers wanted secure access to U.S. markets.**
4	What did Native Hawaiians do to oppose annexation, and what happened despite their efforts?	**Thousands signed petitions against U.S. control, but Congress annexed Hawaii in 1898.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The claim that Pacific expansion benefited everyone overlooks who paid its costs. Chinese immigrants built railroads that linked western markets, yet mobs attacked Chinese communities and Congress restricted immigration. U.S. leaders wanted Hawaiian ports for ships, while sugar growers wanted reliable access to U.S. markets. Native Hawaiians signed petitions against annexation, but Congress annexed the islands in 1898. These events brought trade and power to some Americans while limiting safety and political control for others.

Accept other accurate economic contributions and examples of hostility from the passage. In the final response, look for a judgment supported by evidence from both immigrant experiences and Hawaii.